

A Letter From a GI in Saudi Arabia

by Sonni Schwinn

2-27-91

Almost everybody knows someone who is part of Desert Storm. But not many people receive letters from Saudi Arabia, since GIs mainly write just to their families and closest friends. Other than the occasional brief TV messages directed to military families, broadcast as a public service by the networks, most Americans don't know much about how the people representing this country in the war feel about it or what a day in a war zone is like.

Therefore, *The Wave* has been given permission to publish excerpts from a letter home, written by Specialist James DeMass, 21, a trooper with the 1st Cavalry Division, who was sent to the Middle East on Sept. 29. The letter is dated Jan. 22 and is addressed to his mother in Heber City, Theresa Grant.

James joined the regular army when he was 17 years old. He is a helicopter repair specialist and also is trained as a door gunner. That means that when a helicopter flies into a combat zone to retrieve troops, his job is to fire on the enemy, covering the soldiers as they enter the helicopter.

His mother said that in his first letter home, after arriving at the desert, James wrote, "Everything is sand," and that he had to watch out for scorpions and cobras.

In his Jan. 22 letter, James said he'd been real busy. He said when he wasn't working on helicopters, he and his fellow soldiers were digging bunkers or foxholes and they didn't get much sleep.

He explained, "There are a lot of things to be done. I usually have guard every day and night, 2 hours during the day and 3 hours at night. Then, around 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., we are up because of a Scud missile attack. We all put on our mop suits [a full-body cover-

ing with a gas mask attached or try to sleep in the bunker.

"But we haven't seen any do their aerial bombing raid distance. And every day the

lines (on the enemy's side.) They fly over filled with booby traps. They have talked to some of

run around...The people in t

doesn't help. These A-10 pilo

some personal messages and talked

"Saddam was given plenty about bringing his girlfriend to

out that way, so we're in an meet her after his tour of duty is

little more. Besides, I'll come over. He closed the letter with,

[referring to the air attacks th

need to get going. Things to fix and

"I've been given 196 round holes to dig," and added in a P.S.,

Weapon). They are also giving

"Just so you don't worry,

choice and now he will pay for his

artillery and missiles. And if

wrongdoing."

"There is a time for peace and a

time for war." [Saddam] was given a

choice and now he will pay for his

arrest. [Light Anti-Tank

law (LAW) will get me

them. They're dan-

gerous.

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Letter From GI in Saudi Arabia...

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gerous.

[logical attack] and sit under missile attack, I'm

e, Navy, and Marines

explosions off in the

A-10 Thunderbolts.

Some of the pilots

people on the front

protect them. They just

live themselves, but it

in guns.

race, but it didn't turn

idle, and maybe take a

f this hadn't happened

hadn't begun.]

law (Light Anti-Tank

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Specialist James DeMass



Lodge Holds Benefit For Soldier's Family

The Fraternal Order of Eagles #3777 sponsored a benefit breakfast on Sunday, March 10 in honor of John Kamm, who died in Saudi Arabia serving our country. He was a crew pilot. Left to right: Worthy Secretary W. Neil Muir, Worthy President Dan Christians; cooking the breakfast were Jackie Kumlien, Linda Nelson, mother of Donna Kamm, Lois Arnold, Todd Arnold, Douglas Nelson, father of Donna Kamm, Bill and Dawn Kumlien (sitting) who are Donna's aunt and uncle. Dawn Kumlien is being presented with a check for \$150 from the Club to go to Donna Kamm and her son, Jeremy.

Seaman Completes Training

25 Oct 1989

Navy Seaman Recruit Steven W. Haskell, son of Dawn M. Olejniczok, of 390 West 100 South, Heber City, has completed recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During Haskell's eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic fields.

Haskell's studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history, and first aid. Personnel, who complete this course of instruction, are eligible for three hours of college credit in Physical Education and Hygiene.

A 1989 graduate of Wasatch High School, he joined the Navy in June, 1989.

Desert
Storm

NAVY

*Richard Irie
In Desert Storm*

S.P.C. Steven Brett Mills
will be home on June 7th.
He has returned from Kuwait.

We are having a
welcome home party,
167 N. 200 E., Heber.
It will begin at 3:00 pm
and go till 6:00 pm.
Cake, ice cream and punch
will be served.

**Everyone is
invited to come!**
*If you have any questions call
654-2427
Steve, Chris and Family*

